

In the Claims:

Claims 1. – 106. (Cancelled)

107. (NEW) A system for facilitating aggregate purchasing of products,
in the form of designated goods or services, the system comprising:

a plurality of user client devices for use by potential purchasers of said products;

a plurality of supplier client devices for use by potential sellers of said products; and

a database server system communicating with said plurality of user client devices and said plurality of supplier client devices; said database server system being designed and programmed:

(a) to maintain a catalog of products, and to make said catalog available to potential purchasers via their respective client devices;

(b) to enable potential purchasers to use their respective user client devices to become members of at least one purchasers group of potential purchasers of designated products by assuming an obligation to purchase a said product at a price no higher than a specified maximum price;

(c) to formulate a bid request for a designated quantity of a designated product for purchase by said purchasers group at a price no higher than the specified maximum price;

(d) to present said bid request to a plurality of potential sellers via their respective supplier client devices;

(e) to enable potential sellers to use their respective supplier client devices to tender offers regarding purchase conditions for the sale

of the designated quantity of the designated product in the formulated bid request;

(f) to determine the best selling conditions offered by said potential sellers; and

(g) to make an award to the potential seller offering the best selling conditions for the sale of the designated quantity of the designated product.

108. (NEW) The system according to Claim 107, wherein said database service system is programmed to make an award to the potential seller offering the lowest price for the sale of the designated quantity of the designated product.

109. (NEW) The system according to Claim 107, wherein said designated product is a specifically identified goods or service.

110. (NEW) The system according to Claim 107, wherein said designated product is any one of several specifically identified goods or services.

111. (NEW) The system according to Claim 107, wherein said designated product is identified by a specification.

112. (NEW) The system according to Claim 107, wherein said designated product is an option for a specifically identified goods or service.

113. (NEW) The system according to Claim 107, wherein said designated product is a group of specifically identified goods or services bundled together as a single product package.

114. (NEW) The system according to Claim 107, wherein said database server system is programmed to enable potential purchasers to use their respective user client devices within a specified time period to become members of a said purchasers group.

115. (NEW) The system according to Claim 107, wherein said database server system is programmed to enable potential sellers to use their respective supplier client devices within a specified time period to tender a said offer.

116. (NEW) The system according to Claim 107, wherein said database server system is programmed to enable a plurality of potential sellers to use their respective supplier client devices to tender a joint offer regarding the designated quantity of the designated product in a formulated bid request.

117. (NEW) The system according to Claim 107, wherein said database server system is programmed to enable potential purchasers to use their respective user client devices to become members of any one of a plurality of said purchasers groups.

118. (NEW) The system according to Claim 107, wherein each of said user client devices and supplier client devices is a computer, and said database server system is in communication therewith via the World Wide Web.